

Detailed Listing of All Claims 1-30:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A heat exchanger comprising:

- a. a core having a thermally variable size; and
- b. a support structure connected to the core, wherein the

5 support structure comprises a tie rod having a planar section, positioned intermediate and amid a first end and a second end of the tie rod and in a flow path for fluid in thermal communication with the core, that thermally deforms in relationship to the temperature of the fluid to accommodate operational variations in the size of the core.

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Claim 2 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the support structure thermally deforms at a rate at least similar to a rate of change in the size of the core.

15 Claim 3 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the support structure thermally deforms substantially the same amount as the thermal variation in the core size.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

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Claim 6 (Previously presented): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the planar section of the tie rod thermally deforms at a rate so that the deformation

of the support structure is substantially the same as the thermal variation in the core size.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the
5 support structure comprises a plurality of tie rods, wherein each tie rod has a planar section.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the
planar section is substantially aligned with a flow passing the planar section.
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Claim 9 (Previously presented): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the
support structure further comprises a first strongback and a second strongback
positioned about the core, wherein the tie rod is connected between the first
and second strongbacks.

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Claim 10 (Currently amended): A heat exchanger comprising:

- a. a core having a first end and an opposing second end; and
- b. a support structure, wherein the core is received by the
support structure, wherein the support structure comprises:
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 - i. a first strongback adjacent to the first end of the core;
 - ii. a second strongback adjacent the second end of the
core; and

- iii. a tie rod having a planar section, positioned intermediate and amid a first end and a second end of the tie rod and in a flow path for exhaust in thermal communication with the core, mounted between the first strongback and the second strongback and capable of applying a compressive
- 5 load to the strongbacks even upon normal operational thermal deformation of the tie rod.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

- 10 Claim 12 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 10, wherein the tie rod further comprises a center section, wherein the center section has a center section thickness, wherein the first end has a first end thickness, and wherein the first end thickness is greater than the center section thickness.

- 15 Claim 13 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 10, wherein the tie rod further comprises a set of threads at the first end.

- Claim 14 (Withdrawn). The heat exchanger of Claim 13, wherein the threads have an inner thread diameter and an outer thread diameter, wherein
- 20 the inner thread diameter is greater than the center section thickness.

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled).